The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553-1293

John Gioia, 1st District
Gayle B. Uilkema, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
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Contra Costa County

John Cullen
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

RECEIVED
MAY 2 2 2008
CITY OF LAFAYETTE

May 20, 2008

Honorable Mike Anderson
City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Mayor Anderson and Council Members:

In an effort to preserve **Contra Costa County's** agricultural heritage and promote the health benefits of fresh produce, please consider bringing the attached resolution forward at your next board meeting.

In April, we co-authored a county initiative creating locally grown, fresh produce links here in Contra Costa. The initiative, unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors at its April 12 meeting, supports the efforts of the "Buy Fresh Buy Local" campaign and is intended to:

- create partnerships with local growers to bring fresh, locally grown produce from the county's agricultural core to other areas of the county.
- encourage public facilities to purchase locally grown produce.
- promote farm to school nutrition and education programs
- organize local small farming operations into cooperatives to effectively deliver sufficient amounts of produce through out the county.

Background

There is a public health crisis that includes childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Some of our communities do not have adequate access to healthy food, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables. Many children growing up in our cities and suburban neighborhoods of our county do not know where their food comes from or how it is grown, nor do they have adequate information to properly choose healthy food. Many of our children have never been to a farm, met a farmer nor have they eaten a tomato fresh from the vine.

At the same time, our family farmers are struggling to survive economically. Despite our efforts to preserve prime agricultural land, the number of farms in Contra Costa County has dropped twenty-five percent in the past five years. We can work together to meet these challenges by developing connections between our cities and our farms. For example, the Richmond Children's Foundation and the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT) have begun to work to create connections between Richmond residents and local farmers. This type of creative collaboration promoting fresh, locally grown produce will benefit local growers and create healthier communities.

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We look forward to working with you to promote healthy communities and Contra Costa County's agricultural core. Please feel free to contact either of us regarding this or any other matter at (925) 240-7260 (Supervisor Piepho) or (510) 374 3231 (Supervisor Gioia).

As always, it is an honor to work with you in service to the citizens of Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

MARY N. PIEPHO
County Supervisor, District III

JOHN GIOIA
County Supervisor, District I

MNP:kc

LAFAYETTE
SETTLED 1848 — INCORPORATED 1968

CITY COUNCIL

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Don Tatzin, Vice Mayor
Brandt Andersson, Council Member
Carl Anduri, Council Member
Carol Federighi, Council Member

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our communities face a public health crisis of obesity, diabetes and heart disease and we wish to promote healthy eating through the "Buy Fresh Buy Local" program; and

WHEREAS, many children grow up without understanding where their food comes from or how it is grown and we believe that educating our children about the importance of fresh, healthy food is an important component of building a healthy future for our community; and

WHEREAS, supporting our local farmers and merchants by "Buying Fresh and Buying Local" supports our local businesses and keeps food dollars in our communities; and

WHEREAS, encouraging our citizens to "Buy Fresh Buy Local" will reduce the distance that our food travels from our farms to our tables and the impact of food production on global warming; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural region of East Contra Costa County has rich delta soil, a year round growing season and ample water that make it one of America's most productive farming regions; and

WHEREAS, we wish to support the farmers of East Contra Costa County who produce fresh, healthy, locally grown food for the residents of our community by encouraging our citizens and public facilities to "Buy Fresh Buy Local".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mike Anderson, Mayor, on behalf of the Lafayette City Council do hereby proclaim June 2008 as "Buy Fresh Buy Local Food" month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the City Seal.

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Mike Anderson, Mayor

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